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MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Second Annual Session

OF THE

Canaan Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

New Liberty Church,

BLOUNT COUNTY, ALABAMA,

On the 2d, 3rd and 4th of October, 1875.

A. J. WALDROP.....MODERATOR.
E. B. WALDROP.....CLERK.
M. K. VANN.....TREASURER.
T. V. B. MOOR.....CORRESPONDING CLERK.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
WILLIS AND CHAS. ROBERTS, JOB PRINTERS.
1875.

MINUTES

The messengers from the churches composing the forty-second session of the Canaan Baptist Association, convened with the New Liberty Church, Village Springs Blount county, Ala., on Saturday, 2nd day of October, 1875, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. H. Weatherly, from Ephesians II: 10—"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

At 2 o'clock the delegates assembled in the Academy building and were called to order by the former Moderator, Elder A. J. Waldrop. After singing, prayer was offered by the Moderator.

The roll of the churches was then called, letters presented and read by Elder James Grimes and brother T. V. B. Moor, and delegates names enrolled as follows:

Ruhama.—Elders A. J. Waldrop, E. B. Waldrop, and brethren E. J. Wood and R. J. Waldrop.

Cahaba.—M. K. Vann, Jason Carlile and W. Franklin.

Village Creek.—Not represented.

Salem.—Elder James Nabors, David Glenn, J. L. Watson.

1st Baptist Church Birmingham.—N. F. Miles.

Rock Creek.—Not represented.

Canaan.—Elder James Grimes and brother J. P. Massey.

Mt. Zion.—Elders J. H. Weatherly, A. J. Nunnelly, T. V. B. Moor, S. A. McLendon.

Sulphur Spring.—Elders E. R. Bell, J. A. Baker.

New Prospect.—Elder H. G. Smith, D. F. Hoges, W. W. Conway.

Good Hope.—Elder G. B. Powell, T. B. Robins, H. Lollar.

Shady Grove.—Not represented.

Antioch.—S. B. Wilson.

Hopewell.—A. J. Tadlock, John Murphey.

New Liberty.—Elders G. T. Lee, W. J. Lee, and brother J. E. Massey.

The Association then proceeded to the election of its officers, which resulted in the choice of A. J. Waldrop, Moderator, E. B. Waldrop, Clerk, T. V. B. Moor, Corresponding Clerk.

An opportunity was then offered to churches wishing to

unite with the Association, thereupon the following newly constituted churches presented letters and delegates:

Enon.—Elders James Thomas, T. A. Anderson, E. J. Baird.

Ironton.—J. W. Perry, J. S. Delache.

Pleasant Ridge.—Manoah Robertson, S. H. Huey, S. T. Huey.

On motion the churches were received, and delegates invited to seats.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations:

From Warrior River: Elders P. M. Musgrove, J. C. Shelton, E. P. Mitchell.

From Sulphur Spring: Elder W. J. McCrarey.

Returned Correspondence:—

North River: Elders James Nabors, G. T. Lee.

Coosa River: J. H. Weatherly, James Grimes, R. J. Waldrop, A. J. Nunnelly, Jason Carlile.

Warrior River: G. T. Lee, W. J. Lee, J. H. Weatherly, T. V. B. Moor.

Cahaba Valley: D. Vann, W. Franklin.

Tuscaloosa: G. T. Lee, E. R. Bell.

Shelby: James Nabors.

Mud Creek: A. J. Waldrop, J. Grimes, S. T. Huey.

Sulphur Spring: James Thomas, G. B. Powell.

To Baptist State Convention: A. J. Waldrop, J. H. Weatherly, R. J. Waldrop, James Grimes, James Nabors, E. J. Wood, T. V. B. Moor, E. B. Waldrop, A. J. Nunnelly, G. T. Lee, M. L. Herring. E. R. Bell.

The Moderator then appointed the following Committees:

On Devotional Exercise.—The Pastor and Deacons of New Liberty Church, and by request, the names of the following brethren were added to the committee: A. J. Nunnelly, N. F. Miles, M. Robertson.

On Arrangement for Business.—M. K. Vann, Jas. Grimes, T. V. B. Moor.

On Documents.—J. H. Weatherly, E. J. Wood, Jason Carlile.

On Finance.—N. F. Miles, R. J. Waldrop.

On motion a committee of three was appointed to report on the Centennial movement, on Monday morning—committee, J. H. Weatherly, S. T. Huey, J. W. Perry.

On motion agreed that the funds raised on Sabbath be divided equally between three Boards, (unless otherwise instructed by the donor,) Foreign, Home and State Mission Boards.

On motion adjourned to 8½ o'clock a m., Monday.

SABBATH, Oct. 3rd, 9½ o'clock, A. M.

Met according to appointment; engaged in devotional exercises for one hour, conducted by Elder W. J. McCrarey. Prayer was specially offered for the success of the Gospel in foreign lands. At 11 o'clock a. m., Elder A. J. Waldrop preached the Missionary Sermon to a very large and attentive audience, at the close of which a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes, by pledges, to the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars. Preaching at 3 p. m., by Elder J. C. Shelton, of Blount county—text: "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." Preaching at night by Elder W. J. McCrarey—text: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

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MONDAY, Oct. 4, 8½ o'clock, A. M.

Met according to appointment; prayer by Elder H. G. Smith.

On motion, suspended business for one half hour, in order to give further time for delegates to come in. At 9 o'clock a. m. resumed business.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangement of Business, which was adopted.

Elected brother M. K. Vann Treasurer.

Called for report of Committee on Documents; report adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

1. Ruhama and Pleasant Ridge churches each make application by letter for the next session of our body.

2. That the majority of the churches of this body indicate, by their accessions and Sunday Schools, a good degree of thrift and life.

3. We do most cordially recommend to every Baptist Sunday School in our State the patronage and use of "Kind Words."

4. We do most earnestly recommend to every Baptist family in our State our most excellent and most elegant State paper, the "Alabama Baptist."

J. H. WEATHERLY.

Called for report on Temperance. Report adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following:—

To be temperate is to be moderate or mild in labor, sleep, study, eating, drinking, pleasure, speech, indeed, in every sort of an indulgence. To be intemperate is to go to excess in any of these things. No one can indulge in any of these excesses without certain injury to his own nature: for instance, he cannot be guilty of intemperate eating or drinking without actual injury of his moral, mental and physical pow-

ers, and certain it is that he may finally *murder* himself; thus he violates the sixth commandment.

The use of spirituous liquors is peculiarly dangerous. There are two great causes of the terrible effects of the use of strong drink. First. The stimulating nature of alcoholic liquors very soon create a morbid or diseased appetite for them, which soon becomes almost uncontrollable. Secondly, Very few men have the strength of character to resist it. The effect of the combined influence of a powerful stimulant and natural moral weakness, is awful to contemplate; the man who has fallen a victim to their power deserves more to be pitied than abused. Let no man, for once, imagine that he is man enough to daily use strong drink, and resist its encroachments upon his physical and moral natures—in time it is certain to master him. It is so much like a demon that it seems the chosen agent of the prince of devils. How very true are those remarkable words of Solomon:—"Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—Prov. 20: 1. Our position needs no further proof than this very pointed text. O! that all, both old and young, would shun the very appearance of this dreadful scourge of our race. The united prayers and efforts of christians are needed even to keep it in subjection. It is an ever-present evil from which scarcely any family or man is secure.

But what shall we say of christians who not only *use* this sword of destruction, but actually vend it to their neighbors and their children? What would the Lord Jesus say bretheren? Let such, and let all our brethren heed the voice of God's Word. Thus it speaks: "Ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your *bodies* and your spirits which are his.—1 Cor. vi: 20. "They that are Christ's have *crucified* the *flesh* with the *lusts* thereof. If we live in the spirit, let us walk in the spirit."—Gal. v.; 17, 24. "I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which was against the soul.—I Peter ii: 11. Finally, let the whole church use her whole *power* to keep this awful scourge in subjection. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WEATHERLY, Chairman.

Called for the report on Sabbath Schools, which was adopted:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee believe that during the present associational year, there has been a material change in the Sunday School work.—It has been more extensive in its range, and more thorough in the manner of conducting the schools, and in the character of their teachings.

Very much of our success as a denomination and as christians depends on the Sunday School work. It is here we lay the foundation for correct thinking and correct views of the scriptures. Much of the false theory that *now* excites the religious world, might have been avoided had the originators been properly trained in the Sunday School.—And the duties and obligations, which rest upon those who would engage in this great work, are not of such a light and trivial nature that they be taken on and laid off at pleasure; but they are very solemn in their nature and life long in their duration. And, is it asked, upon whom do these duties devolve? I would answer, "Let him that *heareth*" the words of truth, "say" to perishing soul "come'." and learn of the meek and lowly Jesus who giveth the water of life freely. Our motto should be, "*Every soldier of Christ to arms! and every heart for Jesus!*"

But we greatly fear that the present "Centennial movement," (being one of so great moment and interest,) will usurp our interest, and overshadow our work in this department. And it behooves us to look well to this important interest. Keep your Sabbath Schools properly

organized and in thorough working order Ever praying God's blessing on our efforts. Respectfully submitted.

T. V. B. MOOR.

At this hour the Centenary Committee appointed on Saturday, reported. After several very interesting speeches were made upon the subject, the hour of noon having arrived, adjourned until 1½ o'clock, p. m.

Half-past one o'clock p. m., met according to appointment. Resumed the discusssion of the report of the Centenary Committee. After a prolonged and interesting discussion, in which the brethren generally engaged; all of whom expressed themselves heartily in favor of the movement, the report was unanimously adopted:

REPORT OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

Your committee have decided that they can offer no better paper for the consideration of this body, than the one presented the late session of the Coosa River Association, by Dr. Saml. Henderson, chairman of of a similar committee of that Association. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The centennary of our national independence is to be observed the approaching year; and whereas, our religions, no less than our civil liberty, demands our most devout gratitude to God, as well as a most grateful recognition of the efforts of our fathers in this respect; and whereas, the Constitution of the United States was the first instrument of the kind that ever embodied the principle of "soul liberty" as an inalienable right; and whereas, the Baptist denomination, as such, was mainly instrumental in securing the incorporation of this principle into that organic law; and whereas, history has awarded to our said denomination the distinction of being the first to enunciate and maintain this noble feature of American Liberty, by declaring that "freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of mind, was, from the first, the trophy of the Baptists;"—[Bancroft's History of the United States, vol. 2, pages 66 and 67.] therefore—

Resolved, That we, as Baptists of Alabama, esteem it no less a patriotic than Christian duty and privilege, in common with the denomination throughout the United States to observe the approaching Centenary in a manner becoming alike to our patriotism and christianity.

Resolved, That honorable record of our Baptist Fathers, in the times that tried men's souls, deserves to be commemorated by us, their descendants, in a manner not unworthy of their mighty deeds, and as will show to our posterity that we have placed some adequate estimate upon the priceless boon of "soul liberty."

Resolved, That said Centenary presents a grand opportunity for us to erect an enduring monument to the patriotism, intelligence and piety of our ancestry, who had "understanding of the times to know what Israel "ought to do."

Resolved, That an adequate endowment of Howard College, an institution dear to all our hearts, and which offers the advantages of a thorough education to the youth of our country, and especially to our young men preparing for the ministry, presents an object broad, far-reaching and enduring, and therefore eminently worthy of being selected as the object to receive our benefactions, and as the monument to the memory of our noble dead.

Resolved, That it is alike practicable and expedient for the Baptists of Alabama to contribute to this Centenary fund as much as *one dollar* each, or an amount equal to one dollar for each member, and that we as an Association agree to do what we can to raise our *pro rata* share of this amount.

Resolved, That a Centenary Committee consisting of one from each church in our body, with a working quorum of five members at ———— church be appointed at this meeting to take charge of this matter, and that they be authorized to adopt such measures and employ such agencies as will prosecute this work to a successful issue, by a thorough canvass of every church in our Association.

Resolved, That the appointment of mass meetings, at convenient points in the bounds of our Association, at an early day, to be addressed on the great historical facts which bear upon our religious liberty, would greatly tend to promote this great work.

Resolved, That as the 4th of July, 1876, is the day set apart by our people to celebrate as our Centenary, we, as Baptists, feel it our duty to observe that day principally in its religious aspects for liberty of conscience; and that our Centenary Committee be empowered to select some central point in the bounds of our Association, for a grand Baptist gathering on that day, and that several brethren distinguished for their intelligence and piety be requested to address the meeting, and that the public at large are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WEATHERLY,
S. T. HUEY,
J. W. PERRY,
} Committee.

Upon the adoption of the above report a Centennial Committee was raised, consisting of one member from each church belonging to the Association. The following compose the committee:

Mt. Zion—T. V. B. Moor; Cahaba—Jason Carlile; Ruhama—R. J. Waldrop; Canaan—John Dickey; Sulphur Spring—W. J. Enbank, Good Hope—G. B. Powell; Pleasant Ridge—S. H. Huey; Birmingham—N. F. Miles; Salem—Wm. McCombs; Enon—T. A. Anderson; New Liberty—J. E. Massey; Hopewell—John Murphey; New Prospect—B. F. Hodges; Antioch—S. B. Wilson; Village Creek—Manley Waldrop; Rock Creek—A. G. Waldrop; Ironton—J. W. Perry; Shady Grove, Wm. Houston.

In addition to the above committee a committee of five was appointed to superintend the work in the bounds of the Association: W. H. Wood, R. J. Waldrop, J. M. Franklin, M. K. Vann, D. N. Talley.

The following resolution was then offered and adopted:

Whereas, We deem the Centennial work of great importance, and a work that will require the united efforts of all our people, therefore—

Resolved, That we ask the churches of which brother A. J. Waldrop is pastor, to release him for three months from his regular pastoral services if necessary, and that we request him to visit the different churches of our body, or as many of them as may be practicable, in the interest of the Centennial movement

Called for Circular Letter, none presented, Rev. C. A. Woodson, the appointee having left the State.

The Executive Committee made their report:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We called a meeting of the Board as soon as possible after the adjournment of our last Association. Met with Birmingham church, called to order and prayer offered by brother Woodson.

Called for and received the report of the former Board, which showed an indebtedness $147 15 with only $50 40 in the Treasury. Since that time have reduced the debt to $39 40. Held several meetings but could do nothing for lack of means, finally agreed to employ brethren G. T. Lee, and E. B. Waldrop to ride one month each, and preach in the bounds of the Association; and that they be paid $1 25 per day for their services. M. K. VANN, Chairman.

On motion, agreed to dispense with the Executive Committee for the next associational year; and that brother M. K. Vann, Tresurer, be requested to receive all dues to the Association, and pay out such moneys as may be collected to the objects for which they were intended.

Appointed J. M. Franklin, M. K. Vann, R. J. Waldrop, T. V. B. Moor and E. J. Wood Sabbath School Committee.

Called for Missionary Report which was adopted:

MISSIONARY REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN: We commenced our work immediately after our appointment by the Board. We spent the month of September in traveling and preaching; visiting the greater number of churches belonging to this body, brethren everywhere receiving us gladly. The Territory lying between the Warrior River and Jones' Valley may be considered missionary ground, but no such destitution exists as in former years; this vast territory of several hundred square miles has been made glad with the glorious Gospel of Christ.

Your missionaries would state, in their opinion, that everything is very hopeful as regards the Baptist cause in our bounds, the people are becoming more and better acquainted with the teachings of the sacred scriptures, and hence, the teachings, doctrines and practices of the Baptist are being better understood and appreciated. We would recommend the continuation of missionary operations within our bounds.

We travelled six hundred and twenty miles, preached forty-one sermons, visited thirteen churches, baptised seven. All of which is respectfully submitted. G. T. LEE,
E. B. WALDROP.

On motion, R. J. Waldrop was appointed to write out a historic sketch of the churches belonging to the Association, and that it be read at the next sesion of this body in lieu of the Circular Letter.

On motion, agreed to allow the Clerk $10 for his services —and that the money paid out last year by him to get the minutes printed be refunded.

The Treasurer was instructed to pay over the funds in his possession to different objects for which they were designed.

Resolved. That the thanks of this body are due and hereby tendered to the people of Village Springs for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates during the stay among them.

Appointed the sitting of the next Association to be with Pleasant Ridge Church, four miles northwest of the Jonesboro Station, A. & C. Railroad, commencing on Saturday before the First Sabbath in October, 1876.

Elder J. H. Weatherly to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder G. T. Lee, alternate; Elder E. B. Waldrop to preach the Missionary Sermon, Elder E. R. Bell, alternate.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	Baptised	R'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Deceased	Total	Miscellaneous	Contributions Ass'n'l Purposes.
Rehoboth	A J Waldrop		1		7	1		100	2 25	
Catawba		20	11		4	2	1	189	5 00	3 00
Village Creek	L Williams									
Salem	J Nabors	22	8		14	1	1	80	2 10	
Bethlehem	A J Waldrop		5		1	3	1	26	1 50	
Rock Creek	A White								2 65	
Cabaniss	E R Bell	10	1	1				59	1 75	
Mt. Zion	A J Waldrop	8	1	1		1		116	3 00	2 00
Selma Spring	E B Waldrop	6	2		23	4	2	73	2 00	2 00
New Prospect	H G Smith	3	4					15	1 00	
Good Hope	W J McCreary	12	3	1	3			52	3 65	
Shady Grove									1 50	
Antioch	H G Smith	8	7					26	3 60	
Hopewell	W J Lee	18	5		5		3	35	1 50	
New Liberty	G T Lee	2	11		1	1		52	2 00	1 25
Enon	J Nabors	15	9		3			34	1 65	
Ironton	A J Waldrop	1	4		1	2		12	50	1 00
Pleasant Ridge		7	3					44	3 00	